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Book Reviews.

Inductive Studies in the Twelve Minor Prophets. By WILBERT W. WHITE, PH.D., Professor of Hebrew in Xenia Theological Seminary. Chicago : Young Men's Era Publishing Company, 1892. Pp. 114.

These new and practical methods of Bible study are the hopeful signs of the times. This little volume is the outgrowth and embodiment of plans successfully employed by Professor White in two conferences of college students at Lake Geneva, Wis., during the summer of 1892. It lays out before the workman the stone and timbers, with full specifications for constructing the edifice. Special stress is laid where it should be, on the careful, conscientious study of the words of the prophets. Helps in the shape of commentaries should always follow and never precede personal investigation. No student can go through this volume as directed without finding in the Minor Prophets a new mine of spiritual wealth. The mechanical make-up of the book is also attractive.

PRICE.

The Central Teaching of Jesus Christ. A Study and Exposition of the Five Chapters of the Gospel according to St. John, xiii. to xvii. inclusive. By THOMAS DEHANY BERNARD, M.A., Canon and Chancellor of Wells. New York and London : Macmillan & Co., 1892.

From one point of view this is an excellent book. There is much in it that is helpful, speaking to the heart and imagination. There is much in it to cheer, comfort and exalt. But there is much in it that is based on false exegesis and uncritical suppositions. Only by arbitrary methods can such results be obtained. The author's mind is in that peculiar state in which it is unable to see any real discrepancies or difficulties. He has but to expend his ingenuity on explaining things. How these various explanations fit into each other and how reasonable they are as a whole is no concern of his. When anything seems to him inexplicable, it is referred to some deep mystery. He makes the central teaching of Jesus include too much. As a work of the Christian imagination, it would be excellent; and on this account it will be helpful to many. But its fundamental hypotheses are rejected by most scholars.

O. J. T.

Primary Witness to the Truth of the Gospel. A Series of Discourses: also a Charge on Modern Teaching on the Canon of the Old Testament. By CHARLES WORDSWORTH, D.D., D.C.L., Bishop of St. Andrews. London : Longmans, Green & Co., 1892. Pp. 333.

The seventeen sermons in this volume contain forcible and suggestive expositions of practical Christian truth. They are addressed by the venerable

Bishop of St. Andrews to the people of his diocese to testify to his undiminished interest in their spiritual welfare while hindered by ill-health from appearing in his pulpit. The first sermon, on the "Witness of the Old Testament," is followed by one on the "Witness of St. John the Baptist," and this by two on the "Witness of Jesus Christ." The next, on the "Witness of all the Apostles," is followed by a series of individual testimonies from the more prominent New Testament actors and writers, such as Nathanael, Thomas, Stephen, Andrew, Peter, James, John, Paul and Luke. The last considers the "Witness of the Jews at the Present Day." The writer aims to present from these individual and independent sources a mass of cumulative testimony that will place the truth of the Gospel beyond all reasonable doubt. Still the tone is not controversial, but didactic. Not only the truth itself, but its moral applications are constantly pressed upon the reader's attention.

In the "Charge" at the close of the volume, the Bishop discusses mainly the Pentateuchal analysis. It is a little unfortunate that, after stating the origin and rise of the new opinions, and giving a sketch of the modern theory, instead of considering the grounds on which the theory is based, he contents himself with stating some "*A Priori* Obstacles to the New Teaching," and with referring his readers to recent literature on the subject. Of course the Bishop means to exhibit judicial fairness; but an upright judge will not take occasion to prejudice the jury against the defendant before the case is heard. In theological controversies this habit is common. Let us have truth, let us get at the facts, even if we must experience the painful necessity of reconstructing *a priori* conclusions and pet theories on a basis commensurate with the new facts. This primary love of truth, entirely compatible with a strong leaning toward conservatism, is especially desirable in one who "attempts to assist and guide his clergy in the formation of their opinions" on controverted critical questions.

The misuse of the word "canon," denoting by it the genuineness of a book in the Bible, instead of the mere fact that it is included among the books of the Bible, should be noted. Also, that some of the authors on whom the bishop mainly relies for a refutation of the "new theories" are not first class.

P. A. N.

The Formation of the Gospels. By F. P. BADHAM, M. A., Exeter College, Oxford. Second edition, revised and enlarged, pp. 8 + 196. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., 1892. 5 shillings.

The first edition of this work on the Synoptic problem appeared in 1891. The new edition is more than double the size of its predecessor, and presents the author's theory in a form much easier for the reader to grasp, both because it is more fully set forth in the body of the book, and especially because an appendix presents the three Gospels analyzed by means of